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Sister Wendy Gives America and CMA Visitors Her Personal Tour of Cleveland's Celebrated Art Museum

CLEVELAND — On Wednesday, September 19, at 9 p.m. all of America will be offered a personal tour of the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) by Great Britain's famous "art nun," Sister Wendy Beckett. More than two million households are expected to tune in to their local PBS television station for the grand finale of the six part series "**Sister Wendy's American Collection**." This final episode of the series focuses on the treasures that can be found at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The September 19 broadcast date also marks the debut of the **Sister Wendy Audio Tour** of the CMA including insightful observations that are available only in the audio tour.

Airing on WVIZ/PBS, the CMA episode will be rebroadcast several times locally. In addition to September 19 at 9 p.m., viewers in Northeast Ohio may tune in to WVIZ/PBS on Friday, September 21 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, September 23 at 4 p.m.; and Monday, September 25 at 10 p.m. to see the CMA episode of "**Sister Wendy's American Collection**."

The entire six-part series begins on Wednesday, September 5 at 8 p.m. with each of six museums given a separate one-hour program showcasing its treasures from around the world. The six episodes premiere in pairs over three consecutive Wednesdays. The museums selected by Sister Wendy are (in order of appearance, 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. respectively):

September 5	The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Kimbell Museum of Art in Fort Worth, Texas
September 12	The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art;
September 19	The Art Institute of Chicago and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Through an arrangement with the series' producer, WGBH, the CMA is the only museum in the country that will offer audio portions of Sister Wendy's television special as a tour. A visitor to the museum takes the tour by renting a special CD player and headset. When they see a work of art

with a Sister Wendy symbol near it, they press the number indicated, and her one-to-three minute message plays. A list of works of art and floor plan is given along with the player.

Taken from the original six hours of filming for the show in 1999, the tour features 24 inspirational messages about Cleveland's famous art collection. Seven of these messages, including descriptions of the acclaimed early Christian masterpieces, statues known as the Jonah Marbles, are exclusively to this audio tour.

"Sister Wendy has a remarkable way of communicating to a very broad spectrum of people about the beauty of art," said William Prenevost, CMA's senior officer for external affairs. "That is why her books and television programs have been so successful. By taking her audio tour people will be able to hear her most poignant descriptions while looking at the actual works of art. She spent nearly three weeks at the museum recording material, much more than was able to fit into the one-hour show. That's why we've made the extra effort to include the additional segments on our audio tour."

Visitors who rent the Sister Wendy audio tour will also have access to the CMA's Sight and Sound tour which includes descriptions of more than 300 works of art in the collection. The Sister Wendy tour fee is $5 with discounts for CMA members, WVIZ/PBS members, 90.3 WCPN members, students, seniors and groups. To hear a sample of the tour, visit the museum's Web site at **www.clevelandart.org**. Promotional support of the Sister Wendy Audio Tour comes from WVIZ/PBS.

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